

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 112141Z SEP 84 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON SALVADORAN PRISONER EXCHANGE

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

2. THE DEAL FOR THE PRISONER EXCHANGE WAS FINALIZED AS FOLLOWS:

A. THE FOUR MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL COMMISSIONS (NOT JUST CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS AS FIRST REPORTED) OF FMLN COMPONENT PARTIES WILL BE SWAPPED FOR AN EQUAL NUMBER OF SALVADORAN MILITARY OFFICERS. A MAJOR HOLD UP IN THE NEGOTIATIONS OCCURED WHEN THE FMLN INITIALLY REFUSED TO RELEASE MAJOR CARLOS NAPOLEON ((MEDINA)) GARAY BECAUSE OF HIS KEY ROLE IN THE "SLAUGHTER AT LAS HOJAS." ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF ((BLANDON)) SENT WORD THAT, BECAUSE OF PRESSURE FROM FAR RIGHTISTS IN THE MILITARY, THE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL PARTIES, ESPECIALLY FROM MEDINA'S CLOSE FRIEND ARENA HEAD ROBERTO ((D'AUBUISSON)), MEDINA'S RELEASE WAS A "SINE QUA NON" FOR THE DEAL. SO THE FMLN ACQUIESCED, RATIONALIZING THAT THEY WERE RETURNING MEDINA (LITERALLY) WITHOUT TESTICLES.

B. 15 FMLN WOUNDED WILL BE GIVEN SAFE-PASSAGE THROUGH

[REDACTED]

Approved for Release

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THE SAN SALVADOR AIRPORT TO MEXICO FOR EACH ADDITIONAL SALVA
DORAN ARMY OFFICER RELEASED BY THE FMLN. THUS, 60 WOUNDED WILL
BE SENT ABROAD FOR TREATMENT IN EXCHANGE FOR ANOTHER FOUR
ARMY OFFICERS, BRINGING THE TOTAL OF THE ARMY OFFICERS TO BE
RELEASED TO EIGHT.

C. UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE RED CROSS, THE WOUNDED
WILL BE RELEASED IN GROUPS OF 15, EVERY FIVE DAYS. THE FIRST
GROUP WERE FLOWN TO MEXICO ON 26 AUGUST. SOURCE ASSUMES THAT
THE SECOND AND THIRD GROUPS HAVE, BY NOW, ARRIVED IN MEXICO.
THE REMAINING 30 WILL BE RELEASED IN TWO GROUPS DURING THE
SECOND WEEK OF SEPTEMBER. 40 OF THE TOTAL WILL BE FLOWN FROM
MEXICO TO SWEDEN, HOLLAND, BELGIUM, YUGOSLAVIA AND FRANCE
FOR TREATMENT IN HOSPITALS THERE. TEN WILL BE FLOWN TO SAN
JOSE FOR TREATMENT IN COSTA RICA. [REDACTED]

D. AFTER THE FIRST TWO GROUPS OF WOUNDED REACH MEXICO,
THE 4-FOR 4 PRISONER SWAP WILL BE EFFECTED. THE FOUR FMLN
OFFICIALS ARE SCHEDULED TO TRANSIT SAN JOSE ON 8 SEPTEMBER
EN ROUTE TO STOCKHOLM. (TO ALLOW THE POPULAR SOCIAL CHRISTIAN
MOVEMENT (MPSC) A CHANCE TO MAKE SOME POLITICAL HAY, A MEETING
OF THE ENTIRE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE MPSC WILL BE HELD IN
SAN JOSE 7-10 SEPT, AND SEVERAL WILL GREET THE FOUR RE
LEASED FMLN OFFICIALS.) UNDER THE RULES OF THE GENEVA CON
VENTION BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT NONE OF THE RELEASED WILL
RETURN TO COMBAT ZONES.

E. WHEN THE EXCHANGE IS COMPLETED, ON THE SAME DAY
SALVADORAN ARMY OFFICERS AND FMLN OFFICIALS WILL "ANSWER
(PLANTED) QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS" ABOUT THE SWAP. NEITHER
SIDE WILL HOLD PRESS CONFERENCES CLAIMING CREDIT. THIS IS
A CONDITION IMPOSED BY BLANDON WHO SEEKS TO MINIMIZE THE
BLOW-BACK FROM THE SALVADORAN FAR RIGHT, WHICH, BLANDON
TOLD (OR CONVEYED TO) THE FMLN, PRESIDENT NAPOLEON ((DUARTE))
FEARS AND, FOR THAT REASON, DUARTE WAS MOST RELUCTANT TO
APPROVE THE EXCHANGE. AS PART OF THE PRIORITY FMLN CAMPAIGN
TO DISCREDIT DUARTE AND ANIMATE "NATIONALIST" (READ "NON PRO-
US GOVERNMENT") MILITARY OFFICERS, FMLN RESPONSES TO THE PRESS
WILL STRESS DUARTE'S OBSTINACY AND THE MILITARY'S ENLIGHTENMENT
IN THIS MATTER.

2. THE FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS WERE HANDLED BY THE CATHOLIC
CHURCH UNDER THE PERSONAL SUPERVISION OF ARCHBISHOP ARTURO
((RIVERA Y DAMAS)). AS REPORTED IN MAY FROM SAME SOURCE, A
MAIN TENET IN FMLN/FDR DIPLOMACY IS TO USE THE CHURCH AS AN
INTERMEDIARY TOWARD ACHIEVING DIRECT DIALOGUE WITH THE GOES.
THE ARCHBISHOP ACCEPTED ON THE CONDITION THAT THE FMLN

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"HUMANIZE THE WAR;" THUS, THE FMLN RELEASED EX DEFENSE ATTACHE (DEL CASTILLO) AND, WHILE NEGOTIATING THE LATTER'S EXCHANGE AND AS THE FMLN HOPED, DIRECT SECRET CONTACTS WERE SPURRED BETWEEN FMLN OFFICIALS AND BLANDON REPRESENTATIVES. THESE CONTACTS WERE DISCREETLY ENCOURAGED AND MONITORED BY A FEW MAJORS AND JUNIOR COLONELS OF THE ARMY "PLANA MAYOR" WHO ARE NOT FMLN PENETRATIONS "PER SE," BUT WHOSE COMMITMENT TO NEGOTIATED PEACE EMBOLDENS THEM TO SUSTAIN REGULAR CONTACTS WITH THE FMLN. FROM WHAT SOURCE SAID, IN OUR PARLANC THEY WOULD PROBABLY BE CALLED "AGENTS OF INFLUENCE."

3. AT THE BEGINNING OF THE NEGOTIATIONS THE SALVADORAN ARMY NEGOTIATORS SAID THAT THEY WOULD NOT INFORM THE US GOVERNMENT OF SUBJECT EXCHANGE BUT FMLN OFFICIALS ASSUME THAT SAN SALVADOR IS TOO SMALL AND THE USG PRESENCE TOO PERVASIVE FOR THE DEATH TO HAVE GONE UNREPORTED TO THE USG. THUS, THE FMLN THINKS THAT THE USG CONDONES SUCH EXCHANGES/CONTACTS.

4. THE FMLN PLANS TO CONTINUE SUCH EXCHANGES TO IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE--MAINTAIN AND INCREASE SECRET, DIRECT CONTACTS WITH THE SALVADORAN MILITARY; IMPROVE THE FMLN IMAGE; RESCUE PRISONERS. FOR THAT REASON THE FMLN IS HOLDING BACK CAPTUREES WHO INCLUDE AT LEAST SIX SALVADORAN ARMY OFFICERS AND TWO HONDURAN ARMY OFFICERS.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]